

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 223

By Cobb J

A RESOLUTION designating September 20-26, 2009, as
“Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week” in
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, mitochondria are the power plants in every cell of a person's body and create more than ninety percent of the energy needed by the body to sustain life and to support growth; and

WHEREAS, mitochondria may not function correctly due to genetic defects, damage caused by drugs, or damage caused by destructive molecules called free radicals; and

WHEREAS, when mitochondria fail, cell injury and cell death follow; if the process is repeated throughout the body, whole systems begin to fail; and

WHEREAS, mitochondrial diseases can cause isolated symptoms, such as seizures, low blood counts, blindness, deafness, dementia, heart failure, and progressive muscle weakness, but more often can cause the failure of several organ systems in sequence; and

WHEREAS, mitochondrial diseases can affect any person of any age; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than one in 4,000 children born in the United States each year will develop a mitochondrial disease by ten years of age; and

WHEREAS, mitochondrial diseases are often misdiagnosed because they mimic other diseases; and

WHEREAS, there are, at present, no cures or effective therapies for those suffering from mitochondrial diseases, but early diagnosis can help patients and their families understand the use of proper medication and nutritional supplements to improve their quality of life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate September 20-26, 2009, as "Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week" in Tennessee and urge all citizens to gain a deeper understanding of mitochondrial diseases and their impact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that the third full week of September in each subsequent year should be observed as "Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.